

DD Act History

1963 | President John F. Kennedy

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) was signed into law. It was created to focus on the barriers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families were experiencing.

The DD Act:

- Improves the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.
- Improve services and supports for people with I/DD and their families.
- Created State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, like MODDC.



Black and white photo description:
President John F. Kennedy
signing the DD Act in 1963

2000 | President Bill Clinton

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) was signed into law.

The main points of this law are:

- Self-determination: People with I/DD have control over their own lives and make their own choices.
- Independence: People with I/DD can live and work independently.
- Productivity: People with I/DD can contribute to others through their work and activities.
- Integration and Inclusion: People with I/DD are part of their community and have the same opportunities as anyone else.



Color photo description:
President Bill Clinton
signing the DD Act in 2000

The DD Act charges State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, like MODDC to do the following:

- Advocate for people with I/DD and their families.
- Make sure they have access to services they want and need.
- Support their self-determination and inclusion

MODDC supports people with disabilities and their families to share their experiences with policy makers and legislators. They all work together to:

- Change laws and policies to meet the needs of people with I/DD and their families.
- Make policies and services better.
- Make policies and services more efficient.

If you want to learn more about this, click here: [Public Law 106-402 106th Congress October 30, 2000](#)